

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 20 have been canceled, and Claims 2, 6-8, 10, 18-19, 21, 25-27 and 29-30 have been amended. Claims 2-19 and 21-30 are present in the application. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Noted with appreciation is the indication in the Office Action that Claims 2-7, 10-18, 21-26 and 29 are all directed to allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the limitations of Claim 1 have been added to each of Claims 2, 6, 7 and 18, the limitation of Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been added to Claim 10, and the limitations of Claim 20 have been added to each of Claims 21, 25, 26 and 29. Thus, Claims 2, 6, 7, 10, 18, 21, 25, 26 and 29 have each been placed in independent form, without any change to the scope thereof. As a result, Claims 2-7, 10-18, 21-26 and 29 should now all be in proper form for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 has been amended so that Claims 8 and 9 now depend from allowable Claim 7. Claim 19 has been amended so that it now depends from allowable Claim 7. Claim 27 has been amended so that Claims 27 and 28 now depend from allowable Claim 26. Claim 30 has been amended so that it now depends from allowable Claim 26. Claims 8-9, 19, 27-28 and 30 should thus all now be in proper condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Comment on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner offers a statement of reasons why Claims 2 and 18 are considered to recite allowable subject matter. Applicants agree that Claims 2 and 18 recite allowable subject matter. However, Applicants do not agree in all respects with the statement of reasons for allowance. First, Applicants respectfully submit that the stated reasons for allowance should not be interpreted to mean that there are no other reasons which separately and independently support the allowability of the independent claims and/or the dependent claims. In addition, the statement of reasons attempts to paraphrase some of the claimed subject matter using terminology and/or language which differs in some respects from the specific terminology and language that was selected for use in Applicants' claims. Applicants believe that the scope and interpretation of the claims should be based on the terminology and language selected by Applicants for use in the claims, rather than language arbitrarily selected by the Examiner to attempt to paraphrase some of the claimed subject matter.

Sixth Information Disclosure Statement

As evident from previously-filed Information Disclosure Statements, the present application is closely related to several other U.S. applications (one of which has matured into a U.S. patent). Applicants are enclosing a Sixth Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), which submits some documents that were recently cited in one or more of the related applications. The Sixth IDS is accompanied by a check containing the fee for submission of an IDS at this point in the examination process.

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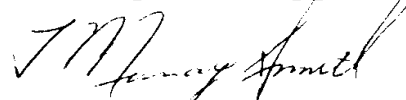
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Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are fully allowable, and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that examination of the present application may be advanced in any way by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (214) 953-6684.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Amendment Transmittal Form
Sixth Information Disclosure Statement,
with enclosures
Checks (\$504.00 and \$180.00)
Acknowledgment Post Card